

WAC 296-23-307 Why are independent medical examinations requested? Independent medical examinations (IMEs) are requested by the department or the self-insurer. Generally, IMEs are ordered for one or more of the following reasons, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Establish a diagnosis;
- (2) Outline a program of treatment;
- (3) Evaluate what, if any, conditions are related to the claimed industrial injury or occupational disease/illness;
- (4) Determine whether an industrial injury or occupational disease/illness has aggravated a preexisting condition and the extent or duration of that aggravation;
- (5) Establish when the accepted industrial injury or occupational disease/illness has reached maximum medical improvement;
- (6) Establish an impairment rating;
- (7) Evaluate whether the industrial injury or occupational disease/illness has worsened; or
- (8) Evaluate the worker's mental and/or physical restrictions as well as the worker's ability to work.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.32.055, 51.32.112, 51.32.114, 51.36.060, and 51.36.070. WSR 04-04-029, § 296-23-307, filed 1/27/04, effective 3/1/04.]